

ABSTRACT

An α -alumina powder suitably used as an additive to a magnetic recording medium and a method of producing the same are described.

An α -alumina powder wherein the average primary particle diameter is 10 to 100 nm, the content of an α phase represented by the following formula:

$$I_{(113)} / (I_{(113)} + I_{(200)}) \quad (1)$$

[wherein, $I_{(113)}$ represents the peak intensity of a (113) plane of α -alumina in an X-ray diffraction spectrum, and $I_{(200)}$ represents the peak intensity of a (200) plane of θ alumina in an X-ray diffraction spectrum] is 90% or more, at least one first component selected from silicon, zirconium, phosphorus and boron is contained in an amount of 0.1 to 10 wt% in terms of oxide, and at least one second component selected titanium, iron and chromium is contained in an amount of 0.1 to 30 wt% in terms of oxide.